

Stricken language would be deleted from and underlined language would be added to the law as it existed prior to this session of the General Assembly.

1 State of Arkansas

2 84th General Assembly

3 Regular Session, 2003

A Bill

Act 753 of 2003

HOUSE BILL 1482

4
5 By: Representative MahonyBy: Senators G. Jeffress, J. Jeffress

For An Act To Be Entitled

6
7
8 AN ACT TO AMEND THE GUIDELINES FOR THE
9 ARKANSAS BOARD OF COUNSELING TO USE WHEN
10 ESTABLISHING THE STANDARDS FOR
11 COUNSELING; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.
12

Subtitle

13
14 AN ACT TO AMEND THE GUIDELINES FOR
15 THE
16 ARKANSAS BOARD OF COUNSELING TO USE
17 WHEN
18 ESTABLISHING THE STANDARDS FOR
19 COUNSELING.
20

21
22
23 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:
24

25 SECTION 1. Arkansas Code § 17-27-301 is amended to read as follows:

26 17-27-301. Licensed professional counselor - Qualifications.

27 The Arkansas Board of Examiners in Counseling shall issue a license as a licensed
28 professional counselor to each applicant who files an application upon a form and in the manner
29 that the board prescribes accompanied by a fee as set by the board and who furnishes satisfactory
30 evidence of the following to the board:

- 31 (1) The applicant is not a minor under the laws of Arkansas;
32 (2) The applicant is highly regarded in personal character and professional ethics;
33 (3) The applicant is not in violation of any of the provisions of this chapter and

34 the rules and regulations adopted under this chapter;

35 (4) The applicant has applied for a criminal background check and has not been
36 found guilty of or pleaded guilty or nolo contendere to any of the offenses listed in § 17-27-

1 313(f);

2 (5)(A) The applicant has received a graduate degree from a regionally accredited
3 institution of higher education which is primarily professional counseling in content and has
4 accumulated at least forty-eight (48) the graduate semester hours which meet the academic and
5 training content ~~standard~~ standards established by the board.

6 (B) The board shall use the standards for the preparation of counselors prepared
7 by that special professional association nationally as a guide in establishing the standards for
8 counseling;

9 (6) The applicant has three (3) years of supervised full-time experience in
10 professional counseling acceptable to the board. One (1) year of experience may be gained for
11 each thirty (30) graduate semester hours earned beyond the master's degree, provided that the
12 hours are clearly related to the field of counseling and are acceptable to the board. In no case
13 may the applicant have less than one (1) year of professional experience; and

14 (7) The applicant has declared special competencies and demonstrated
15 professional competence in specialty areas by having passed a written, oral, or situational
16 examination or any combination thereof as the board will prescribe. Upon the examination of
17 credentials, the board, by a majority of the board members present and voting, may consider
18 those credentials adequate evidence of professional competence and recommend to the chairman
19 of the board that a license be approved in that specialty.

20
21 SECTION 2. EMERGENCY CLAUSE. It is found and determined by the
22 General Assembly of the State of Arkansas that the current guidelines used for licensure of new
23 applicant is not current under the national accrediting agency standards that became effective
24 January 1, 2001; and that this act is immediately necessary because new applicants need to be
25 licensed to ensure that adequate counseling professionals are available to serve the needs of the
26 citizens of the state. Therefore, an emergency is declared to exist and this act being immediately
27 necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health, and safety shall become effective on:

28 (1) The date of its approval by the Governor;

29 (2) If the bill is neither approved nor vetoed by the Governor, the expiration of
30 the period of time during which the Governor may veto the bill; or

31 (3) If the bill is vetoed by the Governor and the veto is overridden, the date the
32 last house overrides the veto.

33
34
35
36 **APPROVED: 3/27/2003**

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25
26
27
28
29